

Appln. No. 10/600,211
Amendment dated February 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Heller (US 3,922,174) and Domeniconi et al. (US 4,403,021) as well as the rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Matsufuji et al. (US 5,759,714).

Claims 1, 6-15 and 20-25 stand rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsufuji et al. (US 5,759,714) in view of Anpo (JP 07-153487).

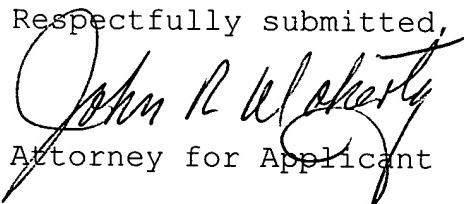
Matsufuji et al. fail to disclose any one of the phosphine or nitrogen-phosphorus bonded compounds set forth in claims 1,6-15 and 20-25. Anpo does disclose the use of triphenylphosphine as an additive in a lithium battery. However, Anpo fails to disclose the use of nitrogen-phosphorus bonded compounds in a battery.

Claims 1, 6-15 and 20-25 have been amended to exclude phosphines such as triphenylphosphine, leaving remaining in the claims nitrogen-phosphorus bonded compounds of the group consisting of hexamethoxycyclotriphosphazene ($[N=P(OCH_3)_2]_3$)

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(HMOPA), hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) and *N*-phenyl-*P,P,P*-trimethylphosphorimidate (PhTMI) as well as mixtures thereof. The amended claims are therefore believed to be patentable and allowable under U.S.C. 103(a) over the art of record.

An action allowing all of the claims now and passing this case onto issue is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 8, 2007